

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated January 7, 2003, claims 1, 3, 5 and 7-11 are amended, and claims 18-23 are submitted. Claims 1-11 and 18-23 are now active in this application, with claims 12-17 having been previously withdrawn from consideration. No new matter has been added.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In support of this position, the Examiner identifies a number of phrases that are deemed confusing and/or unclear. By this response, each of the noted points of indefiniteness has been appropriately addressed. Specifically, confusing and/or vague language is deleted in favor of language believed to recite the invention with the degree of precision and particularity required by the statute. Therefore, it is respectfully urged that the rejection be withdrawn.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND § 103

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsukuhara (U.S. Patent No. 6,016,407) in view of Ogawa (U.S. Patent No. 5,136,327).

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner maintains that “Tsukuhara discloses all that is claimed including a mode selector 1 displaying a selected mode on displays 12 and 42, multi-tiered display modes and listed display modes (Figure 6), graphical representations of camera information (the menus displayed in displays 12 and 42 as shown in Figures 6 and 7), display timers and display language selection (step S51 in Fig. 11). Tsukuhara also discloses displaying the film frame

number on data display 42 as standard information in all display modes (see steps S6, S24 and S34)".

However, the menus displayed in Figures 6 and 7 are used to perform manual settings.

As described at column 5, lines 50-63, of Tsukuhara:

Meanwhile, when the shooting mode is set, the microprocessor 34 determines whether the rotary dial 41 is pressed for more than one second (step S4). When the rotary dial 41 is pressed for more than one second, the microprocessor 34 performs a menu process *to perform manual settings such as the shooting conditions* as follows (step S5).

First, the microprocessor 34 displays the first hierarchy menu shown in FIG. 6 on the image display 43. In this state, the operator rotates the rotary dial 41 to change the selection of the menu item, and selects the menu item by pressing the rotary dial 41. Following this menu selection operation, the microprocessor 34 sequentially displays the lower hierarchy menus shown in FIGS. 6, 7A and 7B on the image display 43. (Emphasis added)

Step S6 is clearly performed after performing manual settings, or in the case where performing manual settings is not selected at S4 (NO). More specifically, the menus displayed in displays 12 and 42, as shown in Figures 6 and 7, are NOT displayed at the time of step S6.

Amended claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

a selector which selects one of a plurality of display modes, a form of display for each of the plurality of display modes being different from each other, wherein

standard information required for photographing is displayed as common information among each of the plurality of display modes,

Step S6 of Tsukuhara, the displaying of the display data, such as frame number, on data display (S6) does not include the display of the menus shown in Figures 6 and 7. Thus, Tsukuhara does not disclose or suggest displaying standard information required for photographing *as common information among each of the plurality of display modes*. Consequently, amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-11 depending from amended claim 1,

are patentable over Tsukuhara and Ogawa, considered alone or in combination, and their allowance is respectfully solicited.

As to claim 3, the Examiner clearly contends that the menus displayed in displays 12 and 42, as shown in Figures 6 and 7 of Tsukuhara, are graphical representations of camera information. However, such interpretation of what display 42 displays when displaying either the first, second or third hierarchy of menus is clearly *unreasonable*, as no graphical representation is shown in Tsukuhara. A graphical representations of camera information is shown, for example, in FIG. 9 of the present application, at screen 120 for presenting depth of field display mode. No such type of graphical representations of camera information is shown in Tsukuhara.

As to claim 4, nowhere is there disclosed or suggested in Tsukuhara or Ogawa:

a list-up display mode wherein information about a plurality of picture frames is displayed in a list-up display form. (See Fig. 10 of the present application, screen 400)

As to claim 5, nowhere is there disclosed or suggested in Tsukuhara or Ogawa:

...another of the plurality of display modes is a detailed display mode wherein detailed information about one of the plurality of picture frames displayed in the list-up display mode (of claim 4) is displayed in a detailed form. (see Fig. 13 of the present application, screens 801 and 802)

As to claim 6, nowhere is there disclosed or suggested in Tsukuhara or Ogawa:

the plurality of display modes include, at least, a first display mode wherein a plurality of pieces of information about photography are displayed, and a *second display mode wherein only specific information among the plurality of pieces of information about photography is displayed in an enlarged form*. (Emphasis added - see Fig. 10 of the present application, screens 100 and 200).

As to claim 8, nowhere is there disclosed or suggested in Tsukuhara or Ogawa:

...when a functional operation of the camera is executed and information about the functional operation is not included in the display mode which is currently displayed, ***the controller controls the display to display information about the functional operation in the another display mode.*** (Emphasis added - see Fig. 10 of the present application, screens 200 and 500 - no indication about self-timer function is in screen 200 so sub-display mode screen 500 display it).

As to claim 9, nowhere is there disclosed or suggested in Tsukuhara or Ogawa:

... when a predetermined time elapses after the display of the sub-display mode (of claim 8), ***the controller controls the display to return to the display mode which was displayed immediately before the another display mode was displayed.*** (Emphasis added)

Thus, dependent claims 3-6, 8 and 9 are patentable over Tsukuhara and Ogawa for additional reasons than the reasons as to why independent claim 1 is patentable over Tsukuhara and Ogawa.

In the invention recited in claims 1-11, as amended, when the display mode on the display is changed to **one of a plurality of display modes in each of which a common information is included from another display mode in which the common information is not included, the display mode including the common information,** which was displayed before said **another display mode,** is restored.

Tsukahara does not disclose or suggest the feature that "**the display mode which was displayed previously is restored to the display**". In Tsukahara, it is disclosed that "**the menu displayed at the step of "S5" in Fig. 5 is multi-tiered**", and that "**after the displaying at the step of "S5", there is displayed the data such as the frame number at the step of "S6".**" Thus, there is no disclosure about the relationship between the display modes in "S5" and "S6".

Further, in Tsukahara, there is no disclosure about the feature that "**the display is returned to one of the display modes in which a common information is included from another display mode in which the common information is not included**". The disclosed feature of Tsukahara is that "**the changing from the multi-tiered display mode (a common information such as the photographing menu is included) to the display mode including such as the data of the frame number**". Even if the displayed information is substantially the same with that in the present invention, the manner of display (order of displaying) in Tsukahara is different from that of the present invention.

Ogawa discloses that "**restoring the display status set at the time the camera power was shut off to the camera display upon restoration of camera power**". However, claim 1, as amended, delineates that "**the change of the display modes (is) during (when) the camera power is on**", and **the change of the display modes** is not related to switching on or off the camera power.

In view of the above, the allowance of claims 1-11, as amended, is respectfully solicited.

NEW CLAIMS

New independent claim 18 and claims 19-23 depending from claim 18 are submitted.

Claim 18 recites:

An imaging apparatus comprising:
a display which displays information about a photograph condition in arbitrary display form,
a selector which selects one display form among a plurality of display forms of a first display mode and a display form of a second display mode, each display form of the first display mode including common information among each of the plurality of display forms of the first display mode, and
a controller which controls the display, at a time of changing the display form on the display from the display form of the second display mode to the display form included in the first display mode, to display the display form which

was display at a time of changing the display form on the display from the display form included in the first display mode to the display form of the second display mode.

The features recited in claim 18 are not disclosed or suggested in Tsukahara Ogawa, considered alone or in combination. Consequently, the allowance of independent claim 18, as well as dependent claims 19-23, is respectfully solicited.

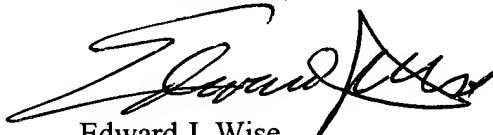
CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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